

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 10

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

October 2015

President's Message

By Bob Dreyer



Photo courtesy of Bob Dreyer

The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

It's just another beautiful fall day here in the Capitol City (low 80's and a beautiful blue sky). I'm glad a lot of people back East and in the Midwest think we have earthquakes all the time and choose not to live here; it's getting crowded enough. Things are still pretty quiet at the Capitol since the legislature is in recess and the school children still haven't started their annual field trips to see "where the laws are made." For those of you who just completed your training (congratulations class of 2015) this is a great time to jump in and share your new knowledge with the predominantly family groups visiting the Capitol this time of the year. I know that there is a need for more volunteers on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, as well as the weekends. Remember, you can always just drop by and put in a few hours as a "Rover" or historical room docent. You more senior members are encouraged to put in a few hours a month as well...the more the merrier. And speaking of things "merry," it is almost the holiday season, so please set aside some time to help with the holiday decorations and the music program. The Capitol will again be dressed up for the holidays...watch for announcements from the Holiday Decorating Committee.

Members with at least one year service in the Association who are interested in contributing to the administration of the Association by being on the board of directors should contact Association Vice President P.J. Jones. P.J. is heading up the Nomination Committee and would love to talk with you about being on the board.

A short administrative note: please be sure to fill out a reimbursement form prior to submitting receipts to the Treasurer. Parking Expense Reimbursement and Expenditure Reimbursement request forms are in the box on the Volunteer desk in B-27. If you can't find a form, please ask Rachel, she knows where the supplies are kept.

Sign up for the November bus trip and **Historical Tour to Benicia**. You should have received an email with information and a

form to send to Patty Wood. \$20.00 is a bargain for just about anything these days, and this event includes SNACKS on the bus. If you didn't see the email or have questions please contact **Patty Wood** (916 967-7931) or **Diane Rich** (916 421-1136) for information.

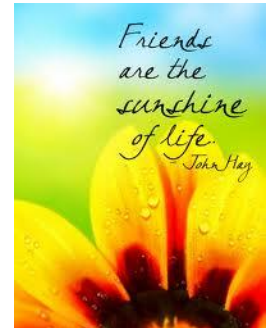
Have comments, concerns, ideas, or just want to see the board in action? Plan on attending the next board meeting on **Wednesday November 4th at 1:00 PM** in the Capitol Building.

~ **Bob**

Sunshine Corner:

Cards were sent to the following individuals this month:

- **Bob Torres:** Get well wishes on recovery from unscheduled Coronary Bypass surgery. Bob is the husband of Bernadette Hicks.
- **Bernadette Hicks:** Thinking of you wishes as Caregiver for her husband as he recuperates from surgery.



Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425-1909.

Historic Field Trip to Benecia:

On behalf of CSCMVA, **Patty Wood** and **Diane Rich** have organized a fun day trip by bus to Benecia, site of the historic capitol and several other very interesting sites. The date is **Friday, November 6**, and the event promises to be an educational adventure as well as a fun social event. The reservation deadline for members and spouses is **October 19th**. If space is available after that date, guests will be welcome. The cost, \$20 for members and \$26 for non-members, includes bus transportation, scones in the morning and refreshments on the ride home. **Please contact Patty (916-967-7931) to make your reservation.**

Costume Closet Show and Tell:



The Costume Closet Committee is hosting a “**Show and Tell**” on **Thursday November 12**. The committee is eager to share costumes and ideas with **new members, both men and women**. In addition, there will be some gently used items for exchange or sale. If our long time members have any gently used costumes or accessories that they are looking to pass on, plan on being part of the event. The event will be in the **Eureka Room** from **2 – 3:30 PM**. RSVPs are encouraged. Please contact Connie Clark at cclark610@surewest.net for more information and your RSVP.

Exploratory Committee for Hands-on Children's' Activities:

The Board is pleased that Lynn Cook and Bart Carlson have recognized a need and are forming a committee to explore some ideas for hands-on interactive activities for children visiting the Capitol. If you are a docent interested in working with them on this project, please contact **Lynn Cook** at lynncook95648@gmail.com or **Bart Carlson** at (916) 447-4527. New members, this is a wonderful new opportunity in which to become involved!

Christmas Decoration Committee Needs Volunteers

There are two upcoming activities that require a number of Christmas elves. The first of these is **Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 AM** when the Christmas Committee led by **Jan Forbes and Marylin Thompson** will be decorating three trees in the museum rooms. Building on the fine start that CSCMVA laid last year, there will be new hand crafted ornaments to add to the trees this year. And...what goes up must ultimately come down. Therefore, additional elves will be needed to help take down the trees on **January 2nd or 3rd**.



If you are interested in helping with either, or both, of these events, please contact **Marylin Thompson** at (530) 666-3748 or by email at marythompson226@gmail.com. This promises to be a fun event for our new members working alongside our existing membership.

Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

Did you know...that the Comstock mining period at Virginia City lasted only 20 years from 1859 to 1879 ? Yes it's true. In our last newsletter we looked at the four Bonanza Kings: Mackay, Fair, Flood, and O'Brian and concentrated on Mackay. Their mines lasted only 6 years from 1872 to 1878. By 1880 all the Comstock mines played out. The Big Bonanza was over.

But our story of the Virginia City-San Francisco connection does not end there. It continues in the person of a young girl whose name was Delia Murphy. She was born on June 1, 1884, in Virginia City, Nevada, some 4 years after the mines began to fail. Her father, Martin Murphy, was a miner. As a sign of her early life in Virginia City, Delia later recalled stories of attending dances at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City. But sometime during Delia's early childhood, her mother died. Her father then sent Delia back to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to be raised by relatives there. Delia remained in Pittsburg until the year 1900 when at the age of 16 she boarded a train heading back to Virginia City. She wanted to locate her father and possibly two elder brothers. She later recalled arriving in Reno and when she got off the train, she became scared upon hearing gun shots ringing out from Reno. Reno was a wild and wooly city in those days. She then asked the station master if she could sit in the station all night in order to catch the morning train to Virginia City. The station master granted her request, and when she arrived in Virginia City the next day, she was not able to locate her father or her brothers. Delia then set out for San Francisco arriving in the City in the same year 1900, alone, poor, skill-less, and with only a 6th grade education.

Our story now switches to an earlier period of San Francisco history, namely the 1850s, when San Francisco hustled and bustled in the middle of the California Gold Rush. At that time San Francisco was primarily a male city peopled by men determined to strike it rich and then go home wherever that may be. Generally speaking, the only women in the City were Native Americans,

Spanish/Mexican women, and prostitutes. In fact, Maiden Lane (formerly Morton St.) just off of Union Square, was at the center of the red light district doing a booming business in the “anything goes” atmosphere of Gold Rush San Francisco. At the same time, in 1854, in stark contrast to the prevailing permissive atmosphere of the City, the Sisters of Mercy headed by Mother Mary Baptist Russell arrived in San Francisco from Ireland and started up a hospital for the residents of San Francisco. The Sisters first operated the County Hospital, and when that arrangement did not work out, the Sisters opened their own hospital – St. Mary’s Hospital still operating in San Francisco today.

In addition to St. Mary’s Hospital the Sisters operated the Magdalen House in which the Sisters struck back at the “no holds barred” atmosphere all around them and took in prostitutes who wanted to leave their way of life. The Sisters taught them the art of sewing -- a skill they could use to support themselves. But, in addition to the Magdalen House, there was another house the Sisters operated, namely, the House of Mercy where the Sisters took in poor Irish girls arriving in the City alone with no one to help them. The Sisters also taught these Irish girls the art of sewing in order that they could support themselves. **Magdalen House**



As indicated earlier, Delia Murphy arrived in San Francisco in 1900. She got a job sewing for the Magnins, either Joseph or I. Magnin who operated separate clothing stores for women. Sometime in the early 1900s Delia met and married Edward Dougherty by whom she had a son Edward and then in 1910 a second son whom she named Clement after a nun whom Delia greatly admired. The Clement named here by Delia is Volunteer Clem Dougherty’s father. Delia Murphy was Volunteer Clem Dougherty’s grandmother.

The name Clement is not a Dougherty family name. It is an old Roman name meaning “kind” and “merciful.” The third Pope succeeding St. Peter was a Pope Clement. During Delia’s lifetime no one in the Dougherty family thought to ask Delia just who was this nun, presumably a Sister Mary Clement, after whom she named her second son. No one thought to ask Delia why this Sister Mary Clement was so important to her. I, as, Delia’s grandson, would like to know since thanks to the late comedian Red Skelton, I’ve had to endure the name “Clem Kadiddlehopper” all my life. But I digress.

Who was this nun and why was she so important to my grandmother? I decided to contact the archivist heading the Sisters of Mercy archives in Burlingame who informed me that there was a Sister Mary Clement employed by the Sisters of Mercy in San Francisco from approximately 1895 to 1936 when she died. In other words Sister Mary Clement was in San Francisco in 1900 when Delia, a poor Irish girl arrived there, alone and unskilled, a likely candidate for the House of Mercy or any named successor to the House of Mercy. Also, Sister Mary Clement was American born as Mary Scully in 1867 in Brooklyn, New York. She entered the Sisters of Mercy Order in San Francisco in 1895. Not too much more is known about her except that she was a nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital and may have been employed at St. Catherine’s Home and Training School (possibly a successor to the House of Mercy) which the Sisters ran from 1860—1930 as a home and training school for girls. This, of course would put Sister Mary Clement in a position where she could teach Delia how to sew. In addition, the archivist had further information that Sister Mary Clement lost an arm as the result of an accident involving a mangle (a machine used for pressing fabrics). While there is no direct evidence connecting Delia with Sister Mary Clement, the circumstantial evidence is pretty strong. The conclusion is that Sister Mary Clement most likely helped my grandmother to survive by teaching her to sew – a skill which enabled her to get a job with the Magnins. Apparently, Delia felt so indebted to Sister Mary Clement that she named her second son after her. I am very proud that I

bear the name Clement or Clem. I owe much to Delia who remained an excellent seamstress for the rest of her life. In her life Delia embodied the San Francisco/Virginia City connection that has been the subject of the last three Clarion articles. Delia died in San Francisco on February 14, 1963.

In 1857 the Sisters of Mercy headed by Mother Mary Baptist Russell arrived in Sacramento and opened a school and then later, a hospital, now Mercy Hospital. In addition, the Sisters acquired a parcel of land which by means of a complicated eminent domain proceeding became one of the parcels which the State of California acquired and upon which the State Capitol now stands. There is a statue to Mother Mary Baptist Russell and the Sisters of Mercy standing right outside the L St entrance to the Capitol. Please visit it. Those women were real heroes.

(Sources: Doyle, Mary K., *Like A Tree By Running Water*, pp. 117-135: *Maiden Lane (San Francisco)*, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)

Penny Smasher



Thanks to the tireless efforts of **Bill White**, the Capitol has a new addition, visitors have a new option for a souvenir, and the CSCMVA has a new source of revenue. Many of you may have seen one of these penny smasher machines in other museums, including the Railroad Museum. This new Capitol **Penny Smasher** machine allows the visitor to engrave one of four images (the CA flag, Minerva, the Capitol Park seal or the Apollo 14 Moon Tree) of the Capitol on a penny. For an investment of just 51 cents, a visitor can come away with a Capitol souvenir. If they are collectors, they can then put their pennies in albums as a memento of their visit to the Capitol and other museums and attractions. (The albums have not yet arrived but will be sold in the Bookstore.)

The "Penny Men" own the machine and are responsible for its maintenance, service and collection of funds, the latter of which are divided with the Association on a 50/50 basis. The Association has entered into a three year agreement with the company which owns the machine, and the company assumes liability for up to \$1 Million.

Next time you are on the Lower Rotunda, look for the Penny Smasher by the Theater. Insert fifty cents and a penny, choose your design and turn the hand crank for your special and unique souvenir!

Annual Meeting: January 21, 2016

PJ Jones, CSCMVA Vice President, wants to inform the membership of the upcoming Annual Meeting on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 11:30 at the Iron Grill**. This meeting is the opportunity for all of the membership to gather, review the year's activities, discuss and vote on any changes to the By-laws, and elect new Board members. PJ's responsibilities include chairing the Nomination Committee. In that role, she welcomes any member inquiries about Board leadership and any suggestions for capable new Board members. Please contact **PJ** at pj95959@yahoo.com with any questions or suggestions.

Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain “Scotty” Hodges

If you would like to meet an interesting fellow with wonderful tales to tell of his early California ancestry, strike up a conversation with **Earl Boynton**. He has a fascinating life history with roots relating back to California’s early settlement. In fact his family history spans six generations of California Boyntons who have lived in both Southern and Northern California. Earl, himself, was born and raised in San Francisco. He and his wife raised his son in Sacramento, and he has one grandson who was born in Santa Cruz.

Earl attended the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and received the commission of Second Lieutenant. While in the Army, he spent two years on active duty at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and in Korea. After completing his active duty assignment, he served twenty eight more years as a reserve member of the Corps of Engineers.



Cindy and Earl Boynton

When Earl returned from Korea in 1958, he moved to Sacramento and joined the Aerojet work force as a Rocket Engineer where he worked on the Polaris, Minutemen, and Space Shuttle programs. In 1997, he became a volunteer at the Old Sacramento Visitor’s Center. He worked there until 2003 when he had the opportunity to volunteer at the State Capitol. (He jokes that the pay was much higher: two free Light Rail passes for each shift!) Earl enjoys our Capitol visitors and is especially fond of Living History events. He has served as Tour Guide and participated in Earthquake Day, Governors’ Day and Election Day. He especially enjoys taking Californians on a tour of the “George Pardee Governor’s Suite.” He mentions that many of the visitors had not previously known about Governor Pardee and leave with historical California information and respect for Gov. Pardee. And, we can always rely on him to be present to help with our Admission Day birthday party to serve cake and ice cream.

Earl has worked more recently with the Department of Labor (DOL) conducting census reporting, and when Earl is not at the Capitol or the DOL, he and his wife Cindy continue to travel (or take “field trips” as Earl calls them). They have been to Scandinavia, Russia, Eastern Europe, the Alpine country, England, Spain, France, Canada, Central and South America, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Israel. Unfortunately a broken limb in a 2013 accident on the ski trip at Lake Tahoe has slowed him down a little more recently.

Family time is a high priority for Earl, so he remains close to this son and his San Jose family. Earl’s grandsons are the sixth generation of Boynton native Californians! As Earl values family, so we value his support and the close relationship he has with our fellow volunteers and the Association.

Rachel’s Reminders:

- **The Holiday Music** Program is fast approaching. If you know of any groups who are interested in performing, please contact Parks Supervisor, Erin at (916) 324-2088 or erin.renfree@parks.ca.gov. **The Capitol Museum Singers** will gather for their annual Sing-Along on Saturday, December 19th. All CSCMVA members are encouraged to join. Rehearsal dates and time to follow.

- We are still having difficulty with **Volunteer Cancellations**. If you need to cancel your scheduled time **within 24 hours, please call Rachel at (916) 324-0319** or if your cancellation is for Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please call the Scheduler's Desk at (916) 324-2088. If you are cancelling your "shift" more than 24 hours in advance, please remove your name from the schedule via the **VicNet system**.

Minutes of the CSCMVA Board - October 6, 2015

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **President Bob Dreyer**.

2015 Board of Directors

President: Bob Dreyer

Vice President: PJ Jones

Treasurer: Bob Dennis

Secretary: Marylin Thompson

*Members: Connie Clark, Chris Tyler,
David Keck, Julie Mallett and Randall Williams*

Minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: **Bob Dennis** reported that the Association showed a good profit in August but not so much in September, as Mary was purchasing to restock the bookstore, and we paid liability insurance. The annual CA State report has been filed as well as all the required tax returns. The Association is in good financial shape.

Bookstore / Membership Report: **Mary Geach** reported that Bookstore net revenue for September was \$2,542. Mary has ordered reprints of the California State Constitution poster and a reprint of the small book Our Historic Capitol. The Board voted to authorize the ordering of 1,000 new copies. The Senate International Relations Committee recently purchased some of the California portraits book and requested a discount if they purchased a quantity exceeding 50. After discussion, the Board approved a 10% discount to anyone requesting a high volume purchase. (A "high volume" quantity will be at Mary's discretion.)

State Parks Report: **Rachel Martinez** notified the Board that Bernadette Hicks' husband had a heart attack and bypass surgery, and she will be absent from the Capitol while she aids his recovery. Lynn Cook and Bart Carlson received approval to launch an exploratory committee to investigate some hands-on interactive activities for children at the Capitol. The Penny Smasher is due for delivery tomorrow. After discussion, the Board decided we would not designate anyone to be responsible for having change available. Rachel read an email from a woman in Virginia who is the great-great granddaughter of Austin Lewis, a candidate whom we re-enact on Election Day. She is seeking more information about him and is requesting to be notified when we present the Election Day living history event. **Matt Bellah** passed out a packet containing a variety of potential projects being considered by Parks. Some might include requests of CSCMVA for funding,; others are simply for the Board's awareness.

New Business:

- **Fall Social Event:** Diane Rich and Patty Wood have planned a bus trip to Benicia on November 6. It will include a tour of the historic capitol and other interesting sites. Lunch will not be provided, but snacks will be. Cost is \$20 for members and \$26 for non-members. Deadline for sign up is October 19. Non-members will be accepted after that date, space permitting. Board approved \$1,200 from the CSCMVA budget to support the cost of the bus.
- **Nomination Committee:** No report.
- **Annual Meeting:** PJ is working on finalizing a date with the Iron Grill.
- **Christmas Decorations:** Marylin and Jan are meeting with Koren, Maria and DGS on October 14 to walk through the historic rooms and obtain final approval for the decorating

plans. Jan, Marylin and Koren Benoit will meet on the 13th to divide the ornaments into thirds in an effort to make each of the trees unique. The Treasurer's Office will have a children's theme with antique toys under the tree. Volunteers will be needed to decorate the trees and to take them down.

- **Museum Day:** Rachel will send out an email one month in advance requesting volunteers.
- **Camellia Day:** Connie will train a new volunteer to chair this event in 2016. Gail Roueche has volunteered.
- **Suffrage Day:** Alex King and Leslie Cooper will chair. Date is Saturday, April 16, 2016.
- **Admission Day:** Rachel has reserved our location on the north side of the Capitol for September 9, 2016.
- **Costume Committee:** It was noted that they have not spent the \$300 allocation for men's suits as it is difficult to buy for a wide variety of sizes. Space in the Costume Closet is also limited. Pres. Dreyer suggested buying more accessories for men, so they can change the appearance of their suits.
- **World War II Posters:** Rachel displayed the finished posters which are ready to sell.
- **River Cats:** The Association is now included in the River Cats email distribution. Our 2015 outing was such a great success that we might consider attending several games next season. Dates need to be chosen.
- **Clarion:** Marti Dennis reported that she has had difficulty with her email distribution list and is working to identify and resolve the problem. Marti will be out for surgery in early December, so will need materials for Clarion publication by the first of December.
- **Appropriate Dress:** PJ reported that a member has raised concern that some volunteers are not dressed appropriately to "work" in the Capitol. Dress should be "business casual:" men wear a dress shirt, tie, jacket or sweater, and slacks. No jeans or casual picnic attire. PJ had no details but will follow up on the complaint.

**The November Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 4 at 1:00 PM.
All members are encouraged to attend.**

Upcoming Events:

Board of Directors Meeting:	Wednesday, November 4, 1 PM
Field Trip to Benicia:	Friday, November 6
Costume Closet Show and Tell:	Thursday, November 12, 2-3:30 PM
Christmas Tree Decorating:	Saturday, November 14, 10 AM
Holiday Music Program:	December 1 - 23
Capitol Museum Singers:	December 19, Saturday
Christmas Tree "Undecorating:"	January 2 or 3, 2016 (TBD)
CSCMVA Annual Meeting:	January 21, 2016 Thursday 11:30 AM
Museum Day:	February 6, 2016

Camellia Day:	Late February, 2016 (Date TBD)
Women's' Suffrage Day:	April 16, 2016, Saturday
Admission Day:	September 9, 2016, Friday

To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319
Rachel Martinez

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,

Christmas and New Year's Day